

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation, particularly that claims 12-24 are allowable and that claims 2-8, 11, 26-29, and 33 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been canceled, claims 2, 5, 7, 11 have been rewritten in independent form, and claims 9 and 10 have been amended to correct dependencies. Thus claims 2-24 are now allowable.

The Examiner rejected claims 25, 30-32, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sumser et al. in view of Hitomi et al. Such rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly with respect to the claims as amended. Claim 25 has been amended to add the limitation that any exhaust gas passing through the turbine section of the second turbocharger has first passed through a turbine section of the first turbocharger; in other words, the turbine sections of the turbochargers are arranged serially. In contrast, the turbines of Sumser et al. are arranged in parallel (see Fig. 1 and col. 4, lines 1-3). In Sumser et al., exhaust gas passing through turbine 6 has not first passed through turbine 4, and neither has exhaust gas passing through turbine 4 has not first passed through turbine 6. Thus such rejection does not meet the requirement of MPEP Section 2143.03 that all of the claim limitations are taught or suggested by the prior art cited.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned agent for Applicant at the telephone number listed below, or Ephraim Starr, Reg. No. 41,325, attorney of record for applicant, at (310) 791-9120.

A check for additional claim fees is attached. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed for accounting purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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